Dear Jim, Post as propagandist-what today's newest leak can mean to us 11/26/76

While I've been expecting more of this kind of Goebbels operation today's story is not what I expected. I've not even filed the file I started 11/13 when we were in Stevens Point.

I don't know what the story really says. It is too early for the paper.

First I heard a very brief account a little after 3, when I awakened and went back to sleep. When I awakened again about 5 and did get up I heard an item a little longer, by coincidence the first item on waking. The second one says that the CIA's electronic surveillance caught LHO offering the Russian information in return for a trip to Russia.

Those Post reporters and editors sure are the keenest! They ask all the searching questions, reason solidly and are determined not to be had again, as they were on the 11/13 story. So the double-check, consult dependable sources, etc. Lila Kesler told me, they're not proud of the 11/13 gulling.

So when he went to Mexico to make a deal with the Russian to get to Russia Oswald wanted to go by way of Cuba, perhaps the only place in the western world from which it was hard to get to Russia?

What priceless information he had! All the darkest secrets he learned while greasing coffee machines. Until he graduated to ostensible unemployment. Can't you imagine the secrets he learned in daytime prowling of the area of Canal and Camp in N.O.? The Russkies were crazy not to accept that offer, weren't they?

No wonder the Post went with the story. Or that Kesler, in his lack of pride in his sheet, had Volume 26 opened to CE 2952 when he phoned me the other night, the Hoover letter that says the most diligent FBI investigation disclosednot even an indirect LHO intelligence connection or political one with the Cubans of their friends.

Kesler, by the way, is a synthetic would-be old-time reporter who will do anything for what he considers a scoop. He does not give a damn is he can get it printed and he has told me that in the past. He wants to do investigative reporting. Remember the rotten thing he did with Harper on RFK and what he would not use and the retraction the Post could not print when he obviously said what Harper could not have said?

On the face this is an unreasonable, illogical story. There is no way if it were legitimate that the Russians would not have said this at or shortly after the time of the crime, when the world had cooled some. It would for them have ended once and for all the US, particularly the CIA effort, to make it look like the Russians were behind it, what scared the hell out of LBJ, with CIA help-read Phillips.

Whether the CIA would have kept its silence is not as certain but I think it unlikely, given their political interests of the time. There was also the great risk in not telling both the FBI and the Commission, certainly Johnson. LBJ was worried about people thinking he was behind it. He and Russell had a discussion along this line. Russell told him suspicions would never end.

I do not believe it is likely that this secret would have been kept. It is a fake, even if they come up with the intercept in LHO's voice. Remember, I have this covered several ways with the CIA- with an all-inclusive request and with a separate one that I then wrote further about when CIA tried to ignore it, saying it was because I did not want to wait until some time in the remote future when they complete whatever they call a review of all their records. O instead they months later leak it to the uncritical Post/

On which Kesler tells me he alone is now assigned to the JFK story.

The first such leak convinced me that the time is now for filing for damages from non-compliance. I know the question is time. As it is with their destruction that is up-coming

These two leaks within a fortnight should be of help before Green and Robinson, in different ways. Before Robinson on the question of security classification, observance